Elizabeth Buckingham
Charter No 5640.

John B Buckingham
Secretary No 5640.

A SHORT HISTORY

. . . OF . . .

Court Pride of Ontario,

. . . No. 5640 . . .

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA,

1871 1896

Ancient Order of Foresters

Compiled and Written by

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With Introduction by J. Watson Stead, Editor of The Ancient Forester.

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By Way of Introduction.

Twenty-five years! How short when looking back down the valley from whence we came! How long when peering ahead to penetrate the mists that envelop the heights of the future!

Many wondrous things have come to pass during the past quarter of a century; and side by side with the achievements of science and art can be placed the great good done by the Fraternal Societies of the world. Begun in crudity, refashioned by experience and gradually brought to almost perfection; during the past twenty-five years they have exercised a mighty force for good over the world and have materially eased the burdens undertaken by the legislators. Court Pride of Ontario, No. 5640, A. O. F., is but a unit in this great body of Society workers; but at the close of its first twenty-five years of usefulness it was felt that some account of its inception, early struggles and subsequent successes should be recorded in permanent form for the use of the members.

To this end, Bro. John B. Buckingham, the courteous and indefatigable Secretary of the Court, prepared the contents of this book. In it will be found a concise history of the Court, told in a plain but forcible manner. To the older members it will serve as an encouragement and a reminder of the battles they fought for the Ancient Order, and make them feel more than ever that their labors have not been in vain.

To the younger members this little history should prove a stimulus to urge them on to better things for their Court and Ancient Forestry. It will show them how their Forestric fathers struggled for a foothold, and how they held it with firmness when they had secured it; so that to-day Court Pride of Ontario stands the Banner Court on the continent and one of the largest in the world.

When the semi-centennial history of the Court comes to be written, may it be a record of greatly increased success, and consequent increased good.

Fraternally yours,

J. Watson Stead.

Editor, The Ancient Forester.

PREFACE.

IT is seldom that persons associated constantly with great institutions fully appreciate the importance and effect they have on more than individuals. Familiarity with the work of the Order in the Courts, and the scenes of sickness, distress and bereavement which are ever before the members of a Society, like the Ancient Order of Foresters, oftentimes rob the ordinary mind of the vastness of the ultimate result. Probably in no case is this lack of knowledge more conspicuous than it is with the ordinary members, many of whom do not consider the Society, after they have paid their dues and received their benefits when sick. We go plodding along from day to day, month to month, and year to year, doing whatever practical good we can to fulfil the obligations we have entered into, until some one calls us to a halt and asks us to look back, and reflect a little on the past; to see if the course of events warrants us going on in the same old path in which we started a quarter of a century ago.

It is with these thoughts that the writer is prompted to chronicle a brief history of Court Pride of Ontario, No. 5640, which, it is hoped, will prove interesting to the members of the Court and the Order generally. The success of the Court during the past can plainly be traced to the efficiency and earnestness of its officers, who have invariably sacrificed their time and ability for the general good, and have been heartily seconded in their efforts by the members to make it the premier Court in the Dominion of Canada. The future of the Court will very much depend upon the same energy and brotherly kindness being displayed by the members; for no matter how well directed the efforts of the officers may be, without the undivided aid of the members they will be of little avail. Let us ever remember that in unity there is strength.

THE OPENING.

The brother who took the initiative in the preliminary meetings of the Order in Hamilton was Thomas H. Buckingham, then a member of Court No. 1701, Derby, England. He, in connection with J. Barber, C. Hurton, J. James, J. Shuttle, G. Collis, J. Clark, G. Maddocks and others, most of whom had been or were still members of the Order in England, conceived the idea of opening a Court in Canada; they being unaware at the time that Courts had recently been opened in Toronto and Ottawa. On September 13th, 1871, in response to an advertisement in the local papers, some forty gentlemen assembled at Dan. Black's Club House (which stood immediately north of our present Foresters' Hall), to consider what steps should be taken. It did not take long to decide, for a motion was made to establish a Court at the earliest opportunity. The publicity thus given opened up communication with the newly-opened Court Hope of Canada, No. 5604, in Toronto, where Bro. T. Buckingham went for information. He found the Court held at the Gloucester Arms Hotel, corner of King and Berkeley streets, and was introduced to Bro. R. W. Abell, P.D.C.R. of the Hereford District, who was the Secretary and practically the founder of the Order in Canada. From him he received valuable information as to the establishment of our Court.

At a subsequent meeting, held October 24th, medical certificates were received and the application fees (25 cents) paid, and the name of the Court, "Pride of Ontario," and the nights and place of meeting were decided upon. The necessary fees, application for Dispensation, etc., for the opening of the Court, were sent to Court Hope in Toronto, and thence to the High Court in England. Adjournments were made from week to week, until news came that the necessary authority had been given. In the meantime the candidates for Forestric honors were not idle, and had talked the matter up among their friends so that their numbers had considerably increased, and the members had become so thoroughly acquainted with each other during these weekly social meetings in Dan. Black's parlors, that it was a time to be regretted by mine host when the Court was instituted.

A communication from Court Hope, Toronto, stating that the officers would be present to open the Court on Thursday, December 19th, 1871, was received with much gratification, and a large delegation met them at the station. The deputation consisted of Bros. R. W.

Abell, P. D. C. R.; E. Fields, C. R.; T. Seaborn, Treasurer, and C. Wilson, S. C. R., and they were escorted to the Club House, where the inner man was satisfied and preparations made for the great event —the institution of Ancient Forestry in Hamilton. In the evening the opening officers, with the members of the Order belonging to other Courts, opened in the name of Court Hope of Canada, No. 5604, and initiated fifty-two members into the simple teachings of true Forestry. The Dispensation was then read aloud, and Court Pride of Ontario, No. 5640, was declared duly and legally opened. The following members were elected and installed to the several positions as the first office bearers:—Joseph James, C. R.; T. H. Buckingham, S. C. R.; James Clark, Treasurer; George Collis, Secretary; David Sharp, S.W.; J. B. Buckingham, J. W.; Samuel Glazzard, S. B.; G. Buckingham, J. B.; J. T. Hill, Sub-Secretary; Dr. C. F. Bullen, Medical Officer; James Baines, John Morley, and William Marsh, Trustees; W. Grover, J. B. Buckingham, and W. Hatchard, Auditors; G. Maddock, S. Glazzard, J. Clark, J. B. Buckingham, and J. Day, Committee to draw up By-laws.

The opening expenses were paid and votes of thanks tendered to the visitors, and replied to, when the Court was closed and adjournment made to the dining room, where a sumptuous repast had been provided, to which the newly made followers of Robin Hood did justice. Toast, song, speech and sentiment were the order for a few hours, and by daylight the next morning most of the members reached their homes. Thus it was that Court Pride was started on her mission of relieving distress, aiding the weak and comforting the mourner.

1871-1876.

The first quinquennial period of a Society is somewhat experimental; especially was it the case with Court Pride. The High Court in England, and the proposition to form a District, with the three Courts then in Canada, business of which very few knew, put the thoughts and energies of the new Court to the test, especially as the local wants were somewhat of an uncertainty. However, the officers went in with a will, and at several meetings very little was done but to initiate new members who were coming in very fast.

On February 13th, 1872, a motion prevailed to celebrate the opening of the Court by holding a supper. A committee of nine were appointed with power to add to their number. The supper took place at the St. James Theatre (now the Odd Fellows' Hall), John Street, when over two hundred sat down. The first deposit was made in the Bank of British North America, when $150.00 was banked. On the same night a resolution

was adopted, to procure a suitable hall; another was that one black ball in ten disqualified a candidate in the ballot. The members previously had been admitted by a majority show of hands. Another resolution was that an Investigation Committee be appointed on all candidates, and still another was that no smoking be allowed in the Court room. Previous to this smoking was permitted. These reforms were looked upon as extremely radical by some of the members who had been used in the old land to meet in taverns and have their glass and pipe in the Court room during business hours; but they were adopted, and on motion, March 12th, it was decided to move to the Templar's Hall, corner of Macnab and King Streets, that the removal be advertised in the city papers and the members form a procession to the new hall. A motion to form a Juvenile Branch was laid on the table for future consideration, a number of the members thinking they had enough to do to get themselves into good shape first.

On March 21st the members of the Court in a body, headed by the Thirteenth Band, proceeded to the new hall, the Chief Ranger carrying the Charter, the Woodwards and Beadles their axes and spears. March 28th, Bros. G. Maddocks and G. Collis were appointed delegates to represent the Court at the inaugural meeting of the Toronto United District, and Bro. Maddocks was elected District Chief Ranger. April 4th, an application for a dispensation was received from R. Omand, Alf. Richmond, T. Tyson and six others to form a new Court, to be called "Maple Leaf," with Bro. Geo. Maddocks as Chief Ranger. It was granted. On the same evening a resolution was passed to hold a Fete and Gala at the Crystal Palace on Dominion Day, which proved very successful, about $200.00 being realized and went to form the nucleus of a Widow and Orphan Fund. On May 9th the following strange-looking resolution was passed: "That no member be allowed to bring up in the Court for discussion any personal matter." On June 20th the election of officers took place and the term ended with bickerings and feuds between the several cliques which had been formed between the members of the several factories and works, and the want of a firm presiding officer was never more manifest.

July 4th the second term opened with E. Appleby, C. R.; J. B. Buckingham, S. C. R.; J. Clark, Treasurer; J. T. Hill, Secretary, and Dr. C. F. Bullen, Medical Officer; G. Maddock and W. Davis, District Delegates. July 18th the Secretary left the city and W. Davis was appointed in his place. A special summoned meeting was held on August 15th to consider the action of the District, respecting registration fees, benefits, officers' salaries, etc. The By-laws of the Court were also amended so that the Secretary was to receive 20 cents per member per annum, and the Woodwards one cent per member for term of office and to deliver all summonses, and the Treasurer's and Sub-Secretary's offices were to be considered offices of honor. This

was a stormy meeting. September 12th permission was granted to E. Avery, D. Reid, W. Dodson, J. Dodson and others to open a new Court to be called "Excelsior," with J. B. Buckingham as Chief Ranger. An application from a gentleman in St. Catharines to open a new Court was received and sent to the District Secretary. The same evening a motion was adopted to close the Court to membership, to allow Court Maple Leaf and the proposed new Court, Excelsior, to get members.

November 12th a committee of sixteen was appointed to prepare for the first anniversary, the members being evidently in favor of large committees. During this term the division of Funds and the books got terribly muddled through the want of knowledge in the workings of the Order and the incapacity of the Secretary. The discussions which this caused were far from pleasant, until on November 21st a resolution was adopted that all books and papers be handed over to the Auditors appointed by the District for examination. This state of affairs was even too much for the District Auditors, who gave a partial report and recommended that a new set of books be procured for the next term. The anniversary supper was all that could be desired, the Mayor of the city and many influential citizens and representatives of sister Courts being present. The first year closed with two hundred and twenty-five members, at an average age of twenty-eight years.

If ever a Society required careful legislation and efficient officers to steer it clear of trouble, it was Court Pride during its second year. The unparalleled success of getting members had completely buried all other ideas. The go-as-you-please style of oratory, the indiscreet remarks of the members, and the general uproar that had characterized many of the meetings, and which went unchecked by the Chief Rangers, made it a somewhat difficult matter to secure a presiding officer. However, one was found in Bro. Geo. Richmond, who accepted the position, and by his resolute manner and knowledge of rules of order the members soon found they had to obey the gavel in his hand. On January 2nd, 1873, the Court started off with G. Richmond, C. R.; C. Williams, S.C.R.; J. Clark, Treasurer; J. Green, Secretary; and Dr. C. F. Bullen, Medical Officer. By-laws for a Widows and Orphans' Fund were adopted at this meeting, but the scheme was not successful. February 10th, a joint meeting of the three city Courts was held for the purpose of renting or leasing a hall, the Good Templars being about to give up the then meeting place. Arrangements were made to lease the hall, and we held the first meetings with a bare floor and no furniture. April 18th, a committee was appointed to collect subscriptions toward buying a banner. The banner was soon procured and was one of the features of the Fete and Gala held on May 24th.

Under the auspices of Courts Maple Leaf and Excelsior, a joint excursion by the Great Western Railway on Dominion Day to visit Court Beaver, of St. Catharines, accompanied by St. Patrick's Band, was successful in every way, but financially. On July 3rd the second term for the year was inaugurated with but little change in the officers (Bro. C. Hall being the S. C. R. in place of C. Williams). During this term the business of the Court was getting more in order and the meetings were more interesting; still there was some ill-feeling displayed when anything of an extraordinary nature was brought up. The effect of the first year's misgovernment was being felt, and while a large number of members were initiated, a larger number were suspended. December 18th a resolution was passed to apply for a dispensation to open a Court, "Perseverance," at Guelph, which was done later, several of our members attending at the opening. The second year closed with two hundred and nineteen members on the roll, at an average age of twenty-eight years.

The Court commenced its business early in the new year, 1874, by holding its first meeting on January 1st, the officers being: C. Hall, C. R.; J. Baker, S. C. R.; J. Clark, Treasurer; J. B. Buckingham, Secretary, and C. F. Bullen, Medical Officer. The balance sheet for the preceding term being very unsatisfactory, a special Audit Committee was appointed, composed of the C. R. and Secretary. When the books were overhauled from the opening of the Court, several errors were found, not only in the previous Secretary's statement, but in the one prepared by the District Auditors. The report was accepted by the Court, and from that time the finances of the Court have been well looked after. A series of fortnightly ten cent concerts were very successful; and to see a number of the officers and members with burnt-cork faces in an amateur minstrel show was a sight worth seeing. However, the entertainments were successful, some $35.00 being handed over to the Secretary to reduce the debt of the Management Fund. February 10th was a memorable night, there being no less than four members up to answer charges before the Arbitration Committee: One for not sending his declaration off the Sick Fund, two for stealing a block and tackle from a member of the Order, and one for drunkenness and wife desertion. The first offender was dismissed with a caution; the remaining three were expelled.

February 12th an application was received from Hancock, Michigan, to open a new Court. The matter was referred to the District, and the D. S. opened Court Rising Sun, No. 5690, having to travel hundreds of miles by road. May 21st a deputation of ladies (wives of members) waited upon the Court and presented the members with three pictures, to adorn the walls with. They were graciously received with thanks. At this meeting it was deemed advisable to

have a Dominion flag, and a committee was appointed to procure one. A joint excursion was arranged for, to take part in a large demonstration, to be held in Toronto. The steamer "Osprey" was engaged, and Professor Hand presented the committee with a number of water fireworks, which were much appreciated. Our share of the proceeds of this excursion was $45.00; the committee being entertained at supper by Bro. Dan. Black into the bargain.

The term was more satisfactory than any yet held and the prospects for a successful future were good. July 2nd found the Court with the following officers; J. Baker, C.R.; W. Monk, S. C. R.; J. Clark, Treasurer; J. B. Buckingham, Secretary; C. F. Bullen, Medical Officer. The question of joining hands with the two sister Courts in District work was discussed by the members, and on August 13th a resolution to secede from the Toronto United District and join the Hamilton United District was unanimously adopted. At the succeeding District meeting, after some opposition from the former District, the Court left and joined its prospects with the Hamilton Brethren. The question of inaugurating a Subsidiary High Court for America was brought up and introduced by a circular from the Cleveland (U.S.A.) District, and a resolution was passed on October 22nd that the Court take into consideration the propriety of forming a Subsidiary High Court; but after a number of meetings and considerable correspondence it was thought advisable to wait a little longer. One of the Courts in the city voted in favor of the scheme.

The removal of the Great Western Railway shops from the city was a severe blow to the Court, as a large number of the members were removed to London, St. Thomas, Stratford and Brantford. Some of them took their Clearances and were not lost to the Order, but others grew careless and neglected to keep up their memberships. Bros. T. J. Priestland and G. Buckingham, then members of the Court and working in Brantford, set about to open a Court there, and with the assistance of some local brethren were successful in establishing Court Endeavour, the opening officers being sent from this Court. The third anniversary of the Court was celebrated by a supper in our own Hall. It was not to exceed thirty cents each, and proved to be, in spite of the cost, one of the most successful reunions the Court ever held. The lady friends of the members went in with a will and cooked fish, flesh and fowl, with vegetables and pastry galore, and a thoroughly enjoyable time was spent. The year closed with one hundred and ninety-eight members, being a loss of twenty-one.

The fourth year, 1875, was ushered in with Bros. W. Monk, C. R.; J. W. Sinclair, S. C. R.; J. Clark, Treasurer; J. B. Buckingham, Secretary, and C. F. Bullen, Surgeon. On January 28th an application for incorporation as a Court was signed, sealed and sent down to Toronto, as

desired by the Act of Parliament, 1874, and we became a body corporate. A Mutual Provident Assurance Association was formed on the assessment plan, the members paying fifty cents at each death; but it was not a success. Three of its members died in close proximity to each other, and the members failed to pay their assessments. The Fete and Gala, held at Swinyard's Grove (corner of Queen and Aberdeen avenue, long since built on), was a grand success, and was got up jointly by the three city Courts. The next term found C. Williams, C. R.; W. H. Marten, S. C. R.; W. Monk, Secretary; J. Clark, Treasurer, and C. F. Bullen, Medical Officer. Bro. J. B. Buckingham was presented with a magnificent gold and silver medal on his retirement from the Secretaryship, as a slight token of regard. On August 18th (Civic Holiday) an excursion to Brantford was taken, where the members were received right royally. The event has never been forgotten. On September 10th the Juvenile Branch was instituted, but not without opposition, as some of the older members thought it would be ridiculous to have boys in parades and as members of a Secret Society. However, the Branch was inaugurated with a large number of members and W. Monk, P C.R., as President. The Branch is now the strongest on the continent.

The Contingent Fund of the Court was started during this term by reducing the contributions to the Sick and Funeral Fund, as the members were paying more than the Hamilton United District Laws called for. On September 23rd several members were initiated for the purpose of forming a Court in Thorold, and the papers were handed over to the District officers. The following motion, passed on November 11th, shows how carefully the Funds were husbanded by the members: "Resolved, that while recognizing the desirability of a sufficient stock of goods for the use of the District, we cannot look with indifference upon the resolution submitted at the last District meeting, authorizing the Secretary to order goods from the Executive Council, never stating to what extent or as to the amount of the Society's moneys which were to be expended; thereby introducing a precedent which may cause us eventually to regret its having been placed on the minutes, as we believe it to be quite in opposition to the spirit of our Constitution and the best interests of the District." The anniversary was celebrated by having a supper at the Dominion Hotel on December 17th. The year closed with two hundred and ten members, a gain in membership and an increase in funds.

The first term of the year 1876 brought a distinguished member of the Court into the chair, in the person of Past District Chief Ranger, Geo. Maddocks, with Geo. Stranks S. C. R.; J. Clark, Treasurer; J. B. Buckingham, Secretary, and Dr. C. F. Bullen, Medical Officer. January 9th, the Court attended divine service with sister Courts and the Canadian Order of

Oddfellows, M. U.; the proceeds of which were devoted to the poor of the city. A goodly sum was realized. January 27th, a proposal was made in the Court to take up a subscription to buy instruments for a band to be attached to the Juvenile Branch. The project was eventually given up for want of encouragement. The first break in the list of Past Chief Rangers took place on June 2nd, when J. Baker, P.C.R. died; and during the same week another brother died, and as both belonged to the Mutual Assurance Society, which had been called upon to pay an assessment for a member of another Court, the strain was too much for the members and was the cause of the Society's collapse. At the semi-annual election Bro. Geo. Stranks was advanced to the Chief Ranger's Chair, J. Day, S.C.R.; the Treasurer, Secretary and Medical Officer being re-elected. On August 28th the Court took part in a Fete and Gala at the Crystal Palace, which was successful in every way but financially, the Court having to subscribe its share of the loss, amounting to $34.43.

September 21st, the following resolution was sent to the District meeting: "That a committee of five members be appointed to find out the best means to make the initiatory ceremony more attractive, and report at the next District meeting." Nothing further of importance marked the term, and the first of the quinquennial group of the Court closed with two hundred and eight members, at an average age of twenty-nine years, and a cash reserve of $3050, having paid out for sick pay $2202.67; for funeral claims, $375, and for donations, $326.23, during the five years.

1877-1881.

1877

The commencement of the second group was not characterized with any startling event, and other than the experience the members had gained from the workings of an English Society in a colony with its many impossibilities and a division of ideas as to what was the right course, we launched out in our work of relief. The year 1877 opened with Bro. J. Day, Chief Ranger; W. H. Hunt, S.C.R., the Treasurer, Secretary and Medical Officer being again re-elected. On January 25th the first fraternal visit from Court Excelsior, No. 5743, was made, with Bro. Jesse Chapman as their Chief Ranger. The novelty of the visit was the cause of a large meeting and a general good time was indulged in. A return visit was made to Court Excelsior at the next meeting. On April 29th the Court attended church service with the St. George's Society. The Court advanced the sum of $140 to a member of Court No. 1728, London, England, who had been very sick. The amount was returned in due time, showing the great advantages of the Order in the Colonies. June 28th the Court was honored by a visit from Bro. W. T. Davies, D.C.R., of Stratford, who was received

right royally. Bro. Adam Lamrock, a member of the Court, who had been ailing for some months, died in the Toronto lunatic asylum, and was buried in this city. The Fete and Gala at the Crystal Palace on Dominion Day proved financially successful. The second term found Bro. W. H. Hunt, Chief Ranger; B. Boreham, S.C.R., the Treasurer, Secretary and Medical Officer being re-elected. August 9th the banner was loaned to Court No. 5835, Stratford, and four members were sent along to take charge of it. September 16th a letter of condolence was sent to the District Chief Ranger, Bro. W. T. Davies, of Stratford, on the death of his wife. At the next meeting, September 30th, the nucleus of Court Pride of the Valley, Dundas, was initiated, and an order was sent for the necessary goods and charter, etc. Bros. Nickelson, Chaplin, Rodd and Weston were a delegation from the proposed new Court. The opening of the Court was attended with much ceremony, a large number of the members being present, the conveyances being gratuitously provided by the members. At the next meeting the members of Court Pride of the Valley paid a fraternal visit and were well received.

A matter of unusual interest was considered at a joint meeting of the city Courts on November 28th, when it was decided to procure a musical instrument for the use of the Court room and to carpet the floor. A per capita levy of seventy cents was made on all the Courts, to be repaid in two years. The Secretary of the Court being taken ill with typhoid fever and his life being despaired of, the Court appointed a nurse and engaged extra medical advice. He ultimately recovered and resumed his position in the Court. The year closed with the membership reduced to one hundred and fifty-seven.

1878

During the first term of 1878 Bro. B. Boreham was C. R., F. Morgan, S. C. R., the Treasurer, Secretary and Medical Officer being re-elected. January 16th, the Court ordered that $1000 be taken from their account and placed in Dominion stocks, which was done through the Post Office Department. April 5th was a great night, three Courts making their fraternal visits to the Court, viz: Maple Leaf, Excelsior and Pride of the Valley. Some very good speeches and songs were given by the visiting members. Return visits were arranged for to each of the Courts. The Court attended a demonstration at Dundas on Queen's Birthday, a large number of the members participating. On May 30th the Court was honored by a visit from District Chief Ranger, J. Patterson, of Brantford, who was accompanied by other members. They were received with honors and entertained by the Court. The second term was ushered in with Bro. Fred Morgan as Chief Ranger, Geo. Jones, S.C.R., the Secretary, Treasurer and Medical Officer being re-elected. July 25th, a meeting of the officers was held "to devise some means to prevent members when on the sick fund resuming their

occupations without declaring off in the proper manner." This practice has never been fathomed, and it is surprising at the present day how persistent some of the members are in resuming work without sending in the Medical Officer's certificate.

The greatest loss that the Court sustained was the death, on November 1st, of its much beloved and highly respected Medical Officer, Dr. C. F. Bullen, who as one of the pioneers had struggled along with the Court in its young days and had endeared himself in the hearts of the members and their families. The Court turned out with the I. O. O. F., of which he was also a member, and a very imposing procession was formed to attend his funeral. The following letter of condolence was expressed and framed, and sent by the Court to his family :

ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS,
COURT PRIDE OF ONTARIO, No. 5640.
HAMILTON, NOVEMBER 8TH, 1878.

MRS. C. F. BULLEN,

DEAR MADAM :—At a meeting of the above Court held on Monday November 4th, 1878, the following resolution was unanimously passed : Resolved, " That whereas it has pleased Almighty God to remore from our midst by death our beloved and respected brother, Dr. C. F. Bullen, the officers be and are hereby instructed to forward a letter of condolence to the family of our late brother."

In accordance with the unanimous wish of the Court, we hereby beg to tender to you our sincere and heartfelt sympathy at the irreparable loss that you and your dear family have sustained in the death of your lamented husband and our highly esteemed brother. We beg, dear madam, to condole with you and to share the grief you are now experiencing in the sad and sudden bereavement that has befallen you ; and we trust that as our dear brother is removed from amongst us he is enjoying heavenly bliss, and we trust that Almighty God, in His infinite goodness will solace and comfort you and your dear family. We cannot conclude without expressing to you the high admiration and esteem our late brother was held in, not only by the members of his own Court, but by the other Courts in the city. His kindly and unremitting attention to the sick will long remain engrossed in the hearts of those who have required his services. His loss is severely felt and very deeply regretted.

We beg to subscribe ourselves on behalf of Court Pride of Ontario, No. 5640.

FREDERICK MORGAN, Chief Ranger.
WILLIAM H. HUNT, P. C. R.
JOHN B. BUCKINGHAM, Secretary.

On Sunday, November 17th, the Court attended the memorial service of our late Surgeon at Christ Church Cathedral, the sermon being preached by the late Very Reverend Dean Geddes. December 10th saw another new Court opened, under the auspices of Court "Pride" (as she was known in those days); when Bros. T. Priestland, T. Loney, G. Buckingham and five other ex-members were initiated, and the new Court, "Marquis of Lorne," was duly instituted by District Chief Ranger W. Monk, assisted by District Secretary W. J. Vale and J. B. Buckingham, P. D. C. R. The Court started off with favorable prospects, with Bro. W. H. Marten as Chief Ranger. This somewhat eventful year closed with one hundred and forty-eight members, and a net increase of Funds, amounting $267.

The stringent state of trade and commerce had a great deal to do with the success of Friendly and Benevolent Societies. Many of the younger members not being fully employed, struck out for new pastures, thus causing a depletion in our ranks. The year 1879 was started with reduced ranks. Bro. George Jones was Chief Ranger; J. Mills, S. C. R.; J. Clark, Treasurer; J. B. Buckingham, Secretary, and Dr. James White, Medical Officer. February 6th the Court appointed a committee, in conjunction with other Courts, to form a Foresters' Band, but was unsuccessful in getting up an organization. The question of a Subsidiary High Court for Canada having been on the tapis for some time in the several districts, circulars were sent to the various Courts requesting each to appoint a delegate to attend a convention to be held in Toronto on July 22nd, 1879. Bro. T. M. Davis, P. C. R., was elected to represent the Court, with full power to advocate the scheme. During the term the Court attended a ball and supper, under the auspices of Court Pride of the Valley, of Dundas. Court Excelsior, with Chief Ranger S. H. Kent, paid a fraternal visit, and several visitations were made to sister Courts. The semi-annual election of officers in July placed Bro. James Mills in the Chief's chair; H. Nicholson, S. C. R.; C. Williams, Treasurer; the Secretary and Medical Officer being re-elected. The Treasurer, Bro. J. Clark, on retiring from the position he had held since the Court wss instituted, was presented with a valuable silver watch and chain. At this meeting it was resolved to increase the Woodwards' salaries to an amount equal to their dues.

The following resolutions were also passed: "That this Court is not in favor of an Endowment Fund, compulsory or otherwise, in connection with the Subsidiary High Court or Order. That while this Court is in favor of a Subsidiary High Court for Canada, we deem it advisable to establish a S. H. C. Sick and Funeral Fund; that the District Officers and Boards of Management be done away with; that

D. C. R's be appointed by the Subsidiary High Court, and that our delegate be instructed to support these views." While all these ideas were not carried out at the time, it took a few years only to accomplish the whole of them. A resolution was also adopted that Courts should be represented according to their membership. This was not adopted, but the wisdom of such a principle has been apparent on several occasions since. The Convention was duly held in Toronto, with forty delegates representing six Districts and Courts. A very crude idea of a Subsidiary High Court (as we see it now) was adopted, putting down the whole expenses to run it at $150 per annum, the membership in the Dominion at that time being about 1950. The brethren in Toronto were exceedingly kind to the delegates and votes of thanks were tendered to them from all quarters. The visit of the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne to Hamilton could not be allowed to pass without the followers of Robin Hood showing their loyalty, and all the Courts in the city combined to illuminate the Hall, each Court paying its share. The Court took part in an entertainment in Dundas on December 19th, under the auspices of Court Pride of the Valley, and closed the year with one hundred and thirty-three members, the lowest number it ever had since the opening night.

The year 1880 was inaugurated with Bro. Harry Nicholson as Chief Ranger; R. Jocelyn, S. C. R.; the Secretary and Medical Officer being re-elected. J. Clark was elected Treasurer. This term was taken up principally with the discussions on the proposed S. H. C. General Laws, and many letters were written to and answers received from the District officers and committee in Toronto. A grand Fete and Gala was held on Dominion Day, which, though successful, eventually proved disastrous to the Treasurer of the Court. He appropriated some of the money and goods collected for prizes to his own use; he was tried by the Arbitration Committee, found guilty, and fined $25 and suspended for three months. This decision he defied, and was expelled from the Order. The second term found R. Jocelyn, C R.; W. Maxim, S. C. R.; C. Grundy, Treasurer; the Secretary and Medical Officer being re-elected. July 8th was a memorable night. The By-laws were amended, giving the C. R. and Secretary power to engage a nurse for urgent cases of sickness, and raising the sick benefit to $4 per week, and funeral benefits to $100, and $50 for member's wife. The formation of a Contingent Fund on the same lines that we now enjoy, and the printing of meeting date cards were also agreed upon. On October 14th the Secretary was presented with a handsome silver watch, procured by subscriptions by the officers of the Court, as a token of their regard. The Sanctuary of Shepherds paid a fraternal visit, accompanied by Past Pastor Collis and others, on November 5th, when an enjoyable evening was spent. The year closed with one hundred and thirty-six members, being an increase of three.

The tenth year opened with good prospects. The dull times seemingly had passed, and the members were enthusiastic for a Subsidiary High Court. The executive officers were Wm. Maxim, C. R.; W. Brend, S. C. R.; the Treasurer, Secretary, and Medical Officer being re-elected. On March 10th the Court paid a fraternal visit to Court Excelsior, and was well received. The disaster on the River Thames in London, Ont., on May 24th, when a pleasure boat capsized, brought forth a resolution of condolence and sympathy, as the Chief Ranger of one of the Courts lost his life, as did many friends and relatives of the members in several Courts in London. The officers for the second term of 1881 were W. J. Brend, C. R.; T. Lewis, S. C. R.; C. J. Grundy, Treasurer; J. B. Buckingham, Secretary, and Dr. James White, Medical Officer. On August 4th a letter was received from H. Lucas, P. D. C. R., Chairman of the S. H. C. Committee, stating that the Charter for the establishment of a Subsidiary High Court for Canada had been granted in England to our representative, Bro. Charles Lanning, P. D. C. R. The news was received with the "Foresters' Fire," and ably acknowledged by District Chief Ranger Bro. W. H. Hunt. August 18th the first delegate to the S. H. Court was elected in the person of the Secretary. On October 6th the Court took part in a joint reception of the Wentworth District, to welcome High Court Delegate Lanning, who was accompanied by H. Lucas. The meeting was a magnificent one, and showed great loyalty to the parent Order. The affair took place at the Revere Hotel. Monday, October 24th, was a day long to be remembered in the annals of Forestry—the inauguration of the Subsidiary High Court of Canada by the unanimous action of the delegates assembled. Canadian Foresters had adopted a kind of home rule. The representative from this Court was honored by an appointment as Auditor, besides being placed on several important committees. He was also appointed to send a report to the "Foresters' Miscellany," in England. The second of our quinquennial groups closed with one hundred and forty-six members, at an average age of thirty-five years; with $4345.73 balance in the Funds, having paid out in the five years for sick pay, $2489.29; for funeral claims, $600.00, and donations, $329.45.

1882-1886.

We started off in our eleventh year with a great deal of confidence that we were to be the Banner Court of the Order in Ontario; and while we had a long way to go and a hard task before us the members were determined. The Order in Canada, being under its own government, was better understood, and the result of close training had given the officers of the Court a better idea as to its needs. The want of a Foresters' Hall was

felt and other matters of importance made the meetings more interesting. On January 5th 1882, Bro. W. H. Corry was Chief Ranger, James Brown, S.C.R. The Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected and Dr. Wolverton was chosen Medical Officer, Dr. White having resigned. A motion prohibiting liquors being brought into and consumed in the ante-room was adopted, and also was one in favor of building the Foresters' Hall. On April 27th Charles Lanning, S.H.C. Secretary, paid a fraternal visit, encouraging the members on in the good work, and was entertained by the Court. May 24th, the Court accompanied Court Maple Leaf on an excursion to Buffalo. The second term opened with Bro. W. J. Harris, Chief Ranger, G. Maxim, S. C. R., the remaining officers being re-elected. The Court took part in the Subsidiary High Court Demonstration in Toronto on Monday, August 21st, and at the subsequent High Court Meeting, four of the members of this Court were elected to positions on the Executive Council: viz,—J. B. Buckingham, H. C. R.; C. Williams, H.C.T.; W. H. Marten, H.C.S.B.; and T. M. Davis, H.C.J.B. It was during this term that the Court was re-incorporated as a branch of the Subsidiary High Court. On October 25th, Bro. W. J. Vale, D.C.R., paid the Court an official visit and was warmly received. He gave a very instructive address, which was greatly appreciated by the members. The year closed with all the members of the Court registered as members under the S.H.C., the District having been dissolved.

The year 1883 opened with the C. R., Treasurer and Secretary re-elected; Bro. W. P. Smith, S. C. R., and Dr. White, Medical Officer. The year promised to be an extraordinary one, as the High Court of Canada was to be held in Hamilton the following August and a strong Union Committee had been appointed to carry out the details. February 15th the Court received a visit from the Hamilton Executive Council, and they were heartily welcomed. The several officers made speeches, after which they were entertained by the Court, there being quite a large number of visiting brethren present. On March 10th a resolution to advance the sum of $3300 to the Hall Company for the purpose of building the Foresters' Hall, was adopted. On June 26th a very successful four-days' excursion was taken to Detroit by the city Courts, and it was well patronized. The Trustees, Bros. Baines, Morley, and Jocelyn, were presented with silver medals, as marks of esteem, from the Court on July 5th. On the same date the following officers were elected: W. P. Smith, C. R.; J. Millman, S. C. R.; the Treasurer, Secretary and Medical Officer being re-elected. On July 19th a cheque for $50 was sent for the relief of the flood sufferers in London, Ont., many families being left destitute by the unprecedented overflowing of the River Thames. The High Court week will long be remembered by those who took part. The Church parade was on Sunday, August 26th,

the service being held in Christ's Church Cathedral, Rev. Dr. Mockridge officiating.

The magnificent demonstration, on Monday, August 27th, the trip to the Beach and the many social gatherings, together with the business of the High Court and the establishment of Pioneer Conclave, No. 1, Knights of Sherwood Forest, gave the members of the Court and Order a variety of excitement, which will not easily be effaced from their memory. At the meeting on August 30th the Court was honored by the presence of P. H. C. T. Bro. C. Wilson, one of the charter members of Court Hope of Canada, No. 5604, and one of the opening officers of this Court. H. S. C. R. Bro. Newman, of London, and D. C. R. Bro. J. Foot, of Stratford, were also present, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The Fete and Gala netted $86 to each Court taking part, and the members of the Court on the committee were presented with testimonials at the close of their labors.

The only change made in the executive officers of the Court at the commencement of 1884 was that of R. Phillips, as S. C. R.; the remainder being re-elected. On January 7th the Court donated $25 towards the Juvenile Foresters' Library Fund. On January 31st applications for membership from His Worship the Mayor, J. J. Mason, and the Hon. J. M. Gibson were accepted, and they became honorary members. On February 28th the Knights of Sherwood Forest made their first appearance in uniform, by paying a visit to the Court, and were enthusiastically received. April 10th a Sick and Relief Committee was appointed, consisting of twelve members, to be divided into four sub-committees, This formed the basis of our present By-law. The Court accompanied the Uniform Branch to Buffalo at their excursion on May 24th. The Courts moved into their new quarters in the Foresters' Hall, which event was celebrated by an oyster supper and concert, with addresses from many of our prominent members, The C. R. for the second term was R. Phillips, who did not live to fill the term, he dying after a brief illness on September 15th. The S. C. R. was J. Emery, the remaining officers being re-elected. On August 25th the Court took part in the High Court Demonstration in London, which was financially successful.

On October 23rd T. G. Priestland, D.C.R., paid his official visit to the Court and congratulated it on its steady progress. November 6th saw the Uniform Branch visit the Court, and speeches, interspersed with music and song, made up a pleasant re-union. The thirteenth anniversary of the Court was celebrated by having an oyster supper with full toast list. The year closed with two hundred and seventy-six members.

1885

The year 1885 opened very auspiciously, with J. Emery, Chief Ranger, J. Hughes, S.C.R., the remainder of the executive officers being re-elected. Bro. J. Welby, the first chairman of the Hall Committee, resigned his position and was presented with an emblematic gold pin, as a mark of the Court's appreciation of his services. The Juvenile Foresters' Drill Corps, under the command of Captain J. Hughes, paid the Court a fraternal visit on January 29th. The skillful drill executed by the boys was much appreciated. The death of P.C.R. Bro. Joseph James, the first Chief Ranger of the Court, on February 12th, cast a gloom over the members, and although he was a member of Court Metropolis, London, England, he had by his true Forestric principles endeared himself to the Court. Arrangements were made for his funeral, and he was buried with Forestric honors. On May 24th a very successful excursion was held to Galt by the united city Courts, the members from this Court on the committee being presented with gold pins.

The second term of the year was somewhat interesting on account of the action taken by the Stratford Executive Council claiming there was to be no High Court Meeting that year; while a large majority of the Courts claimed there should be one. Bro. R. Jessiman, of Court Hope of Canada, No. 5604, Toronto, came to the rescue by sending a circular to all the Courts. This Court adopted the suggestion and sent a delegate. The officers for this term were W. H. Marten, Chief Ranger, W. R. Tribbeck, S.C.R., the others being re-elected. It was at this election that the first member from the Juvenile Branch took office, in the person of Bro. Duncan Grigg, as Sub-Secretary. The introduction of literary entertainments after the routine business had been disposed of proved very interesting, and several very good programmes were rendered by members of the Court. This comparatively new feature proved beneficial to the attendance at the meetings. The High Chief Ranger, Bro. Foot, honored the Court with his presence at the anniversary entertainment, as did also the then Mayor, Bro. J. J. Mason. The celebration was entirely successful. The membership at the close of the year was two hundred and ninety, at the average age of thirty-two years.

1886

The year 1886 was somewhat noted, as the mortality was the highest yet experienced; the losses being three members and three members' wives. The officers were for the first term: A. E. Smith, Chief Ranger, R. A Realf, S. C. R.; the remainder being re-elected. The transfer of $500 from the Management Fund, which had grown beyond proportion, to form the nucleus of the Contribution Aid Fund, took place, and the By-law was altered to make provision for a contribution to this new Fund. On March 25th the Court entertained the Juvenile Branch and Drill Corps, when the boys had a good time.

Bro. J. Watson Stead (now editor of The Ancient Forester), at a subsequent meeting read a very interesting paper on the benefits of Medical Aid Associations, in connection with Friendly and Benevolent Societies. A committee was appointed to consider the advisability of the establishment of such an Association in Hamilton. Circulars were sent to all the Societies in the city to meet and consider the matter on May 31st, when the question was fully discussed by the representatives present. Owing to the apathy shown by some of the sister Societies, the idea was allowed to drop until the A. O. F. could support such a scheme on its own responsibility.

July 1st saw R. A. Realf, Chief Ranger; J. P. Blackhall, S. C. R.; the remaining officers being re-elected. On Sunday, August 18th, the Court attended divine service at Dundas with Court Pride of the Valley. The High Court Demonstration in Stratford was well attended and will long be remembered, as it rained most of the day. The excursion from Hamilton proved a financial failure. The Court's fifteenth anniversary was celebrated by holding a concert and ball in the Foresters' Hall on December 10th. The 19th was a day of mourning, for on that day our Chief Ranger, Bro. R. A. Realf, died in the hospital with typhoid fever. He was a young man in the midst of a useful career, and was cut off, far away from every relative, after a few days' sickness. He was buried from the Secretary's residence, attended by the members of the Order, the Knights, and the Sons of England. Thus the year closed with its seasons of sunshine and shade, the membership being three hundred and twenty.

The third quinquennium ended with the year, the Court being worth $6458.23, with an expenditure of $4187.64 for sick pay, $1100 funeral claims, and $793 for donations.

1887-1891.

The sixteenth year opened with the veterans of the Court taking part in the official duties, four of the charter members being officers, namely: Bros. J. Baines, C. R.; J. Shuttle, S. C. R.; T. Appleton, J. W., and J. B. Buckingham, Secretary. The Treasurer was re-elected, and Dr. R. R. Wallace was appointed Medical Officer, in place of Dr. J. White, who resigned, much to the regret of the members. An agitation was got up early in the year to endow a cot in the City Hospital—to be called the Foresters' Cot. Delegations waited upon the proper authorities, but could make no definite arrangements. They were promised reduced rates for members of the Order at the City Hospital when necessary. January 27th a man, purporting to be a member of the Order in a Court in Brooklyn, waited on the officers, and having the passwords, signs, etc., was advanced the sum of $7.50 by the Secretary.

He proved to be a fraud, and the Court granted the amount to the Secretary. On March 4th it was decided to invest $150 in a banner and procure a new set of officers' ribbons. May 24th an excursion was run to Paris and was very successful, excepting a delay at Copetown of four hours on the return trip, when the party was entertained at Mrs. McCarty's residence.

June 21st was a memorable day; it being the Jubilee anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne of England. A joint demonstration was held by all the Societies with tableaux cars. The A.O.F. car was represented with the shield of the Order, supported by Robin Hood and Little John, with dogs, a lamb and shepherd, Juvenile Foresters, boys and girls on beautiful green turf, and vari-colored ribbons floating from all sides made a very effective car, The Knights of Sherwood and all the branches turned out well, and altogether the Order made a magnificent appearance and was warmly congratulated by the local press.

The second term found J. Shuttle, Chief Ranger, T. Appleton, S. C. R., the remainder of the executive officers being re-elected. On August 25th the Court was honored with a visit from P. D. C. R. Bro. E. J. Salmon, of British Columbia, who was received with the "Foresters' Fire." He gave a very interesting account of the working of the Order in his Province. The excursion to the High Court Demonstration at Brantford was a financial failure, the Court having to pay its share of the loss. The sixteenth anniversary of the Court was held in Alexandra Arcade, when a concert, ball and banner presentation took place. The affair was eminently successful and the sum of $36 was realized. The D.C.R., Bro. J. Young, visited the Court on December 13th, and reported everything to his entire satisfaction.

The officers for the year 1888 were: Bro. W. P. Smith, Chief Ranger, E. Swann, S. C. R., the Secretary, Treasurer and Medical Officer being re-elected. Bro. W. Williams presented the Court with a photograph of the fourth Executive Council, and received the thanks of the Court through the D.C.R. On March 8th the Rev. C. H. Mockridge, D. D. was initiated as an honorary member, on which occasion he was preseented with an H.M. Regalia. The Knights of Sherwood Forest, under Captain Stark, paid the Court a fraternal visit on May 31st, and an enjoyable evening was spent. The Court granted permission and appointed a committee to open a Circle of the Companions of the Forest, which was ultimately accomplished, Bro. J. B. Buckingham being the first Chief Companion. The High Court Demonstration was held under the auspices of of the city Courts at the Dundurn Park on July 1st, Dominion Day, when a large concourse of members and visitors attended. The Court's share of the proceeds was $18.

The officers for the second term were E. Swann, Chief Ranger; D. Grigg, S. C. R.; the remainder of the officers being re-elected. This was the first election in which an ex-Juvenile member had been chosen for an executive office, the S. C. R. being that officer. On the retirement of Bro. W. P. Smith from the office of C. R., he being the first and only member who had served in that capacity for three terms, the following letter was engrossed, framed and presented to him:

ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTRES.

COURT PRIDE OF ONTARIO, No. 5640.

That whereas our worthy Brother, W. P. Smith, having retired from the Chief-Rangership of this Court, we cannot allow the occasion to pass without in some slight degree acknowledging the kindly offices rendered by him during the past term;

That whereas the Court has passed through one of the most successful terms since its organization during the occupancy of our brother in the Chief Ranger's chair, and that he is the first member of the Court who has served in that position for three terms;

Be it therefore Resolved, that the thanks of this Court are due and are hereby tendered to Bro. Wm. P. Smith for the assiduity, zeal and patience displayed by him as Chief Ranger;

Be it further Resolved, that these resolutions be engrossed on the minutes.

Signed: E. Swann, C. R.; J. Shuttle, P.C.R; J. Baines, P.C.R.; W. H. Hunt, P. D. C. R.; W. H. Marten, P. H. C. S. B.; J. B. Buckingham, P. H. C. R., Committee on Resolutions.

The annual sermon was preached on July 29th at Christ Church Cathedral by the Rev. Bro. C. H. Mockridge, D. D. On October 18th the Court presented gold headed canes to Bros. Smith, Buckingham and Whitby, as members of the Fete and Gala Committee, for the work done by them. On December 30th the resignation of Bro. J. Baines, who had been Trustee for the Court for seventeen years, was received. The Court presented him with a gold headed cane and an engrossed address, beautifully framed. As quite a number of the members of the Court were going to Stratford on account of the removal of the G.T.R. car-works to that place, a general good-bye was extended to them. The anniversary of the Court was held at the Palace Rink, when a concert, ball and parlor games were indulged in and proved highly successful. The Court contributed its share in the purchase of the plot of land in rear of the Foresters' Hall, and closed the year with three hundred and ninety-four members; having initiated ninety-three new members, at an average age of twenty-four years.

Bro. Charles Parsons was Chief Ranger at the commencement of the year 1889, with A. E. Cutbush, S.C.R.; Dr. Wallace, Treasurer, and J. B. Buckingham, Secretary. On January 21th four candidates from the Juvenile Branch were proposed, the largest number ever transferred on one night. Their names were H. R. Gillespie, A. Martin, J. B. McCallum, and J. W. Board; all of whom are members to-day, and three of them Past Chief Rangers. Two of them have represented the Court at High Court Meetings. On March 21st the C. R., S. C. R., and Treasurer resigned their positions, when A. E. Smith was elected C. R., C. J. Aikens, S. C. R., and C. Grundy, Treasurer. The Hall Company had a joint Demonstration at Dundurn Park, which proved a financial failure, the loss to this Court being $35.

The second term of this year W. H. Marten was Chief Ranger; J. W. Aikens, S. C. R.; J. Millman, Treasurer; the Secretary and Medical Officer being re-elected. The Court took part in an excursion to Toronto, to attend the High Court Demonstration, which was not financially successful, on August 26th. This affair caused some unpleasantness in one of the Courts; the matter was referred to the H. C. R., who decided in favor of our Committee's action. On December 12th a warm discussion took place regarding a member who had been seen out after the prescribed hours while receiving sick pay. It is reported in the minutes that the Chief Ranger left his chair, but was prevailed upon to take it again and resume the business of the Court, after which songs were sung and recitations rendered, to the delight of all. The year was closed with the usual grant of $10 to each of the widows, and remembrances to the press and letter-carrier. The roll was four hundred and thirteen members, and a surplus of $7424.74 in the several Funds.

The year 1890, the nineteenth year of our existence as a court, opened up serenely with C. J. Aikens, Chief Ranger, G. F. Miles, S.C.R.; the Treasurer, Secretary and Medical Officer in their same positions. The Court was honored by a visit from a number of dignitaries of the Order on Junel 2th, amongst whom were Charles Lanning, H.C.R., W. Williams, P. S., Bro. J. Mackintosh, D.C.R., Bro. W. J. Vale, P.D.C.R., Bro. T. Rumsey, H. C. J. B., and others. They were duly honored and replied in speeches of much interest to the members. The visitors were entertained by the Court and pleasant reminiscences indulged in by the members. The officers for the second term were Bro. J. F. Miles, Chief Ranger, A. E. Cutbush, S. C. R., the remainder being re-elected. On August 7th the Court loaned the Demonstration Committee $225 to meet the deficit caused by their July Fete and Gala in Dundurn Park, which they claimed was caused by allowing all members in regalia and those showing railway tickets in the grounds free.

However the Committee set to work and held the largest concert and ball ever given in connection with the Courts in Hamilton, redeeming their loss and leaving a balance.

At the meeting on October 30th another honorary member was added to the Court in the person of Rev. R. J. Boville, who, on his admission, congratulated the Court and Order on the good work it was engaged in. A Union Committee of the Courts in Hamilton was formed to attend to the Cemetery plot, the extension of the Order, the proper reception of visitors, legislation in connection with Societies, and the general exchange of opinion in everything for the advancement of Ancient Forestry in this vicinity. On December 19th emblems of the Order, neatly framed, were presented to Bros. Cutbush, Miles and Martin, as members of the Demonstration and Concert Committee. The year closed with four hundred and fifteen members, leaving the Court as the Banner Court in Canada.

The year 1891 opened up very enthusiastically, with A. E. Cutbush, Chief Ranger; J. W. Betzner, S. C. R.; the Secretary, Treasurer and Medical Officer being re-elected. The Union Committee invited the Court to the opening of a new Court, to be called "Oriental," in North Barton. It was attended by many of the members; as was also the case on the Queen's Birthday, when the came committee ran an excursion to Buffalo, N. Y. At the meeting on June 11th, a deputation from the Hall Committee waited on the Court and asked for the appointment of a committee to act in conjunction with other Courts to devise a scheme to reduce the debt on the Hall. The first term of the year had been so successful that the members re-elected the whole of the officers except the S. C. R., who had left the city. Bro. C. Wheeler, an ex-Juvenile, was appointed in his stead. The Court took part in a band concert at the Drill Hall in connection with C Company, Thirteenth Battalion, for the benefit of the widow of Bro. J. W. Silk, who was killed by falling from the roof of the West Avenue School. The concert netted $250. The annual sermon was preached in the Hannah Street Methodist Church, on Sunday. August 23rd, and an excursion to Woodstock took place on the following day in connection with the High Court Meeting.

On October 1st Bro. Newman, a visitor from Providence, R. I., was present, and addressed the Court in a very interesting manner on Ancient Forestry in America. His speech had the right ring in it, and he was proud of the reception he received at the hands of the members in Canada. The meeting on October 15th was a stormy one, owing to the consideration of a resolution made at a former meeting respecting a grant made to the High Court Delegates. After much discussion it was declared illegal. The next meeting was pleasant, a

committee having been appointed to get up entertainments for the good of the Order, and many pleasant hours were spent with songs and literary selections. The fourth quinquennial term closed with four hundred and thirty-five members; with assets amounting to $7605.80; having expended for sick pay, $7701.95; for funeral claims, $2300.00, and for donations, $934.74.

1892-1896.

The twenty-first year was entered on by every member determining to do his share to uphold the Court's premier position. Very handsome hanging calenders, emblematical of the Order, had been presented to each member and everything looked fair for a prosperous year. The officers were: C. G. Wheeler, C.R.; A. J. Wright, S.C.R.; the Treasurer, Secretary, and Medical Officer being re-elected. The members from the Juvenile Branch had by this time become thoroughly acquainted with the workings of the Court, as manifested by the C.R., S.C.R., S.B., J.B. and Sub-Secretary having been members of that body, as also was the Organist. The scourge disease la grippe, so prevalent in Canada during the first three months of the year, left its imprint on the Court. During that short period nearly $1000 was dispensed in sick benefits. Amongst its victims was Bro. H. Corry, P.C.R., who was taken away after a short illness. The brother had been a member of the Court for twenty years; had served as Woodward many years, and also as Chief Ranger. He was a good Forester and a faithful officer and will long be remembered by those who knew him.

During the year our officers were called upon to visit three sick members of Court Grand River, of Galt, who were residents of the city. The same attention was given the afflicted brethren as was given to our own members; thus showing the beauty of fraternity as practiced in the Ancient Order of Foresters. The second term of the year was similar to the first, as the officers were re-elected, excepting that W. Ashby, jr. was S. C. R.; the Court thus having six members from the Juvenile Branch as office bearers. On installation night they were congratulated by District Chief Ranger W. P. Smith on the encouragement they were receiving at the hands of the older members of the Court.

The disastrous fire at St. Johns, Newfoundland, which took place on July 8th, when 1900 families, comprising 11,000 persons, were left homeless, was the cause of the Court, at its next meeting, contributing $25 toward the relief fund. The Fraternal Societies of the city got up a joint demonstration for the sufferers' benefit. The delegation from this Court took a prominent part. The amount realized was $1321.50. The annual sermon was preached on Sunday, August 6th, and an excursion to Barrie and Orillia took place on the 7th, and it was very

enjoyable. A fraternal visit from Court Harmony, of Toronto, on October 27th, was an event long to be remembered. About 150 members and their friends appeared in the Court room. A committee had provided street cars, a concert programme, and an orchestra for dancing. Bro. H. E. Griffiths, H. C. T., R. Jessiman, P. D. C. R., and other prominent members of the Order were present. The entertainment presented was highly appreciated by the visitors, and the closing sentiment was: "Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again."

The death of Bro. J. Mercer, of Court Grand River, to whom our officers had been attending, cast a gloom on the Court. Our Dispensation was draped for the space of thirty days. The anniversary was celebrated December 20th with a supper at Newport's dining-rooms, which was a success, many prominent Foresters and citizens being present. This was the last year that donations were given to the widows of deceased members, when $100 was gr ed. The year closed with four hundred and seventy-four members, having experienced four thousand one hundred and fifty-two days' sickness, with a balance in the treasury of $7335.78.

The officers for the first term of 1893 were: W. Ashby, Jun., Chief Ranger; J. B. McCallum, S. C. R.; the Treasurer, Secretary, and Medical Officer being re-elected. On January 5th Bro. E. J. Vogeley, of Toronto, addressed the Court in an interesting manner, giving his experience in the many Courts he had visited while travelling. On March 2nd a petition from the Court in Medicine Hat, N. W. T., was received, asking for a subscription to build a Foresters' Hall. A donation was granted. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for an excursion to Toronto, to return the compliment paid by Court Harmony. The affair turned out to be very pleasant, every member of the Court trying to make the visitors happy. The excursion proved financially successful, the committee handing in a surplus of $18 to the Court. The second term was honored with Bros. J. B. McCallum, as Chief Ranger; J. Smith, S. C. R.; with the same Treasurer, Secretary, and Medical Officer. Again a majority of the officers were ex-members of the Juvenile Branch. Court Excelsior paid the Court an official visit on August 2nd. The visitors were entertained in the lower hall, after which a choice concert was enjoyed by the large number of members present.

The excursion to Orillia on Civic Holiday netted the Union Committee about $65; but the collection at the Church Parade the day previous was reported to be very small. District Chief Ranger Bro. Hardy, of Dundas, accompanied by the Knights of Sherwood Forest, paid the Court a fraternnl visit on October 12th, when a very pleasant

evening was spent. Many of the members and Sir Knights contributed to the programme. The twenty-second anniversary of the Court was celebrated by a supper, at which High Chief Ranger Bro. E. T. Perry, the Permanent Secretary, His Worship the Mayor of the City, and other prominent citizens took part; and while the committee reported a deficit, the money was considered well spent, as it gave the Court a notoriety which showed its liberality to entertain visitors. December 21st was an interesting date, as S. S. Ryckman, M. P., was initiated as an honorary member on that evening. The Arbitration Committee was called together to hear a charge preferred against one of the members for working while on the Sick Fund. The charge was proven and a fine of $5 was imposed. The year closed with four hundred and seventy-four members, at an average age of thirty-two years.

1894

The officers for the first term in the year 1894 were: Bro. J. B. McCallum Chief Ranger, J. W. Board, S.C.R., with the Secretary, Treasurer and Medical Officer re-elected; there being seven out of the ten officers from the Juvenile Branch. During the winter months the meetings were made pleasant by having short programmes of vocal and instrumental music by the members. On March 2nd the Court paid a fraternal visit to Court Excelsior, which provided refreshments and a very pleasant evening was spent. On March 29th the sick visitors reported that three brothers had been seen out after hours while receiving sick benefits. The Chief Ranger fined them $2 each, it being their first offence. The second term opened with Bro. J. W. Board, Chief Ranger; Archie Martin, S. C. R., the other executive officers being re-elected. Again there were seven of the officers from the Juvenile members. The anniversary Church service was held at the First Methodist Church on August 5th, when the Thirteenth Batallion Band accompanied the Courts. On the following day the Courts and band attended the High Court Demonstration at Ingersoll, which proved one of the most successful re-unions in the history of the Order in Ontario.

The Court sent a letter of appreciation to Bro. James Hobbs, P. H. C. S. W., of Court Maple Leaf, who had retired after many years of faithful service as Treasurer for the Foresters' Hall Committee. His services were also acknowledged by the committee by the presentation of a gold-headed cane. At the meeting on September 12th, entertainments for the winter evenings were again taken up in earnest; seven members contributing to the programme. On October 11th the Secretary intimated that the Court and the C der in Hamilton had lost a friend in the untimely death of the city editor of The Hamilton Times, Joshua Buchanan. The deceased gentleman had been present at all the Court's festive gatherings since it was established, and had given full reports to the public. Letters of sympathy

and condolence were ordered to be sent to the editor of the paper, and to the bereaved relatives. The Good and Welfare portion of the evening was of a military nature, and was given over to the Knights of Sherwood Forest, who provided the programme of songs, recitations, and silent sword drill, which was much appreciated by the large number of members present.

The next meeting, October 25th, was a memorable one. The evening was set apart for the Companions of the Forest, but an unexpected pleasure was awaiting the members—no less than a visitation by our very much respected High Chief Ranger, Bro. E. T. Perry; Permanent Secretary, Bro. W. Williams; H. C. S. W., Bro. H. West; H. C. S. B., Bro. R. Jessiman, and others. The programme provided by the ladies was very attractive. Several of the High Court officers spoke kindly of the ladies, conveying words of encouragement on the good work they were doing for Forestry. The Permanent Secretary, on behalf of the H. C. R., presented to Bro. J. B. Buckingham, P. H. C. R., on behalf of the Foresters of Hamilton, a magnificent life-like photograph of Bro. E. T. Perry, to be hung in the Foresters' Hall. The recipient in a few remarks thanked the donor, and stated that his regime as High Chief Ranger would long remain engrossed in the hearts of the members of the Order in Hamilton. The Court entertained the visiting officers while in the city, and the Knights of Sherwood Forest presented the H. C. R. with an engrossed address.

A smoking concert, with an impromptu programme, was indulged in at the next meeting. After routine business on November 22nd the evening was given up for an entertainment from the representatives of sister Courts, at which J. Hardy, D.C.R. presided. The programme was contributed by members from every Court in the District and votes of thanks were tendered to the visitors. The meeting was a decided success from a fraternal point of view. The next meeting was the champion of them all. The Juvenile Branches were entertained by the Court and a good programme was presented, several of the Juvenile members taking part; and as a bountiful supply of refreshments had been provided by the Entertainment Committee a general good time was spent. The year's work proved generally satisfactory, with four hundred and fifty-two members and reserve Funds amounting to $7399.05.

The year 1895 opened with a peculiar coincidence, which showed that the work of the officers was duly appreciated, by the unanimous re-election of all the officers, executive and subordinate; which event was satisfactorily commented on by the District Chief Ranger, J. Hardy, who, with an escort of the Knights of Sherwood Forest, was present on installation night. After the regular business had been disposed of

an adjournment was made to the lower Hall, where a short session of social enjoyment was indulged in. On February 28th, after routine, the members adjourned to have an hour at parlor games.

The next meeting during recess was devoted to the old members; and the letters sent from the pioneers of the Court, at a distance, and the members present detailed many reminiscences which are related in the previous pages of this sketch. The meeting on April 5th was devoted to the young members who gave numerous songs, recitations and musical selections, to the great pleasure of all present. Bro. R. Jessiman, H.C.J.B., paid the Court a visit on May 23rd, when he was entertained, and a pleasant evening was spent. On June 20th a grant of $10 was made for the Juvenile Branch toward defraying the expenses of their annual picnic.

The next term found Archie Martin, Chief Ranger, C. Ashby, S. C. R., J. W. Board, Treasurer, the Secretary and Medical Officer being re-elected. At the meeting on July 4th the following resolution prevailed: "That a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to District Chief Ranger, Bro. J. F. Hardy, for the attention and zeal he has shown in the District to forward the best interests of the Order, and the Court extends to him its well wishes for the health and prosperity of himself and family." On August 1st a member who had been found working while in receipt of sick pay, and who had been fined on two previous occasions for the same offence, was summarily expelled from the Order by the Chief Ranger. Owing to the unsatisfactory terms of the railway companies for cheap rates to Guelph, the members were obliged to make their own arrangements to be present at the High Court Demonstration, which very few attended.

The Court entertained the Juvenile Branch on October 10th, when a large number of the members attended. The entertainment comprised singing, music and refreshments, the boys having a thoroughly enjoyable time. The next meeting was devoted to the old members, when Bros. Emery, Crowie, Buckingham, Gayden and others addressed the Court on the progress of Forestry in Canada. At the meeting on November 7th communications were received from Bro. E. T. Perry, P. H. C. R., stating that one of our members had been taken seriously ill in Montreal, and that he was giving him his best attention. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered Bro. Perry for his great kindness. During Good and Welfare the Companions of the Forest were received, and a pleasant hour was spent in speech and song. At the next meeting the Court was honored with a visit from the Knights of Sherwood Forest, and a large delegation from Regina and Kanawha Councils, of the Royal Arcanum. This inter-Society visitation was something new in the Court's experience, and the spirit that prompted the visit was one worthy of imitation, as the co-

mingling of Fraternal Societies is a means to the end of bringing about the brotherhood of man. The meeting proved a very pleasant one, and the sentiments exchanged will prove beneficial to the members of both Societies. At the last meeting of the year the By-laws were amended advancing the contributions of the members, to bring them in conformity with legislation enacted at the Guelph High Court Meeting. Such action was apparently needed in some Courts to a very much greater extent than it was in Court 5640. However, the advance to most of our members was very slight, and the benefit of this action will be seen in the near future. The year closed with four hundred and forty-one members, and a reserve of $7224.64.

1896

The Court began its quarto-centennial year with a reduced membership and times comparatively hard, but with a determination on the part of the members to make it a memorable one in the annals of the Court. C. Ashby was Chief Ranger; J. Pearce, S. C. R.; J. W. Board, Treasurer; J. B. Buckingham, Secretary; C. Simons, S. W.; D. Hogg, J. W.; A. Heath, S. B.; A. Tribbick, J. B.; W. Ashby, Jun., Sub-Secretary; Dr. R. R. Wallace, Medical Officer; Archie Martin, P.C.R.; seven of whom are ex-members, and two others are officers of the Juvenile Branch. The installation was conducted by Bro. S. H. Kent, D. C. R., who congratulated the Court on its magnificent position after twenty-four years' experience, and wished the members success for the coming year. On February 13th the Court entertained the members of Court Excelsior, No. 5743, by holding a smoking concert in the lower Hall, when pipes, tobacco, and refreshments were served. A number of the members contributed vocal and instrumental music, and Bro. J. W. McDonald exhibited his grapohone, which rendered some fine selections.

At the next meeting Good and Welfare was devoted to parlor games. The east end combatted the west end members; the former coming out victorious. A return match was arranged for the next meeting, when the west end members redeemed their lost laurels. The Court was honored on March 26th by the initiation of George E. Tuckett, Esq., Mayor of the City, who became an Honorary Member and was presented with a jewel of membership. In accepting it he spoke highly of the good work the Order was doing in all parts of the world, and especially in the city, where cases came under his notice frequently. He promised to attend the Court as often as his duties as Chief Magistrate would allow him, and take a share in its responsibilities. The Courts in the city attended a magnificent entertainment in Dundurn Park on Dominion Day; but the weather being excessively warm, it was not as successful as the Foresters' Hall Company, under whose auspices it was got up, would have liked.

The second term of the year saw the whole staff of officers re-elected and a strong committee appointed to prepare for the quarto-centennial celebration, as follows; C. Ashby, C. R.; W. H. Hunt, P.D.C.R.; W. P. Smith, P.D C.R.; A. Martin, J. W. Board, J. B. McCallum, W. Ashby, G. Jones, J. Shuttle, and J. Baines, P.C.R's; J. Pearce, S.C.R.; A. Heath, S.B.; G. C. Potter, W. White, and J. B. Buckingham, P. H. C.R.; G. H. Evans. During the summer the attendance of members was unusually small, but when the long, cool evenings came the members again rallied to discuss the propriety of a reconstruction of the agreement between the Court and the Foresters' Hall Company. The new amplified Ritual, which a large majority of the members desired to see exemplified, caused some stir. These matters and the coming twenty-fifth anniversary created considerable interest, and consequently good meetings, The twenty-fifth year will close with not less than four hundred and forty members, and a balance of $6500 in the treasury.

According to the records, twelve hundred and six members were initiated, sixty-two Clearances accepted, seven hundred and thirty-seven members were suspended for non-payment of dues, eight were expelled for cause, one withdrew, fifty-two died, and thirty left by Clearance during the twenty-five years.

CONCLUSION.

The brief, and necessarily incomplete, sketch of the twenty-five years' history of Court Pride of Ontario is ended. The minutes, the source from which most of the information was obtained, were imperfect, and some of the items had to be gathered from memory. Many minor matters occurred during the past quarter of a century which are not recorded in these pages; many acts of kindness to the brethren have been extended that have not been recorded in the minutes; many members have stood up in the Court and expressed their gratitude and thanks for favors received; many letters have been received from bereaved families for promptness in paying claims (claims that were made as a matter of right and not as charity); many have been the social gatherings got up to entertain a visitor by the members clubbing together to keep up the prestige and dignity of old Court Pride. On many occasions have the members of the Court extended the right hand of fellowship to members of sister Courts and *vice versa*, so that our fraternity was perfect. Our wants were their wants, and their wants were ours.

The enormous amount of money contributed to and paid for medical, sick and funeral benefits, amounting to upwards of $40,000, conveys but little idea of the amount of good the Court has done in relieving distress, aiding the weak, comforting the mourning; yea, and in some cases assuaging the pangs of hunger. The ordinary member seldom thinks of the magnitude of the benefits of a Society like ours. The commercial value shrinks into almost nothingness when we contrast it with the social value.

What the next twenty-five years will be rests with the individual members, from whom the officers are chosen. With the experience we have had, and the amount of information collected, we should make a far better showing than we do to-day. Much will depend upon the earnestness and zeal of the officers and the support of the members to make our efforts more successful. Let us sincerely hope that whoever lives to chronicle the history of the Court on its Jubilee anniversary, he may be able to show an even more successful career than we have experienced in the first quarter of a century.

On the pages that follow will be found the names of the brethren who have been removed by death from the Court, their ages, and the years in which they died. Many of them will long be remembered as Foresters "steadfast and true."

I love to speak of this good old Court,
For the sick and afflicted it helps to support.
For twenty-five years by the clock's pleasant tick
It has sent the cash due to the homes of the sick.
May it never want friends loving labor to do.
For the next twenty-five years be honest and true,
And if each of our members will dutiful be,
What rejoicing will crown Court Pride's jubilee!

John W. Buckingham
Secretary 56 40.

DECEMBER 1ST, 1896.

In Memoriam.

In Memoriam.

NAME.	JOINED.	DIED.	AGE.
J. Beebe	1872	1873	26
P. McBride	1874	1874	29
H. G. Chilman	1873	1875	21
M. Carlyle	1871	1875	41
Baker, P. C. R.	1872	1876	37
C. Bowyer	1873	1876	37
E. Grigg	1871	1876	39
A. Lamrock	1874	1877	42
C. F. Bullen, M. D	1871	1878	39
W. Henshaw	1875	1879	43
J. Glazier	1877	1879	29
W. Grover	1871	1882	41
R. Hall	1874	1882	30
S. Bunt	1882	1883	26
R. Phillips, P. C. R.	1872	1884	48
E. Appleby, P. C. R.	1871	1884	48
*J. James, P. C. R.		1885	
R. A. Reall, P. C. R.	1885	1886	25
F. Hazel	1882	1886	26
R. West	1879	1886	42
D. Pringle	1873	1887	42

* A member of Court Metropolis, London, England, and was the Court's first Past Chief Ranger.

In Memoriam.

NAME	JOINED	DIED	AGE
E. King	1872	1887	53
J. Waldron	1873	1887	42
E. Hudson	1871	1887	45
T. Peden	1877	1888	38
F. C. Willis	1884	1888	29
G. Stapleton	1887	1888	40
A. Jaggar	1885	1888	26
F. Booth	1886	1889	41
D. Munger	1872	1889	52
W. Chiswell	1883	1889	42
W. Rands	1888	1889	21
J. R. Watts	1885	1890	27
J. Horton	1871	1890	50
J. B. Ramage	1874	1891	49
A. Mills	1889	1891	23
J. Silk	1888	1891	26
W. Kench	1872	1892	53
W. H. Corry, P.C.R.	1872	1892	60
J. Farr	1872	1893	54
E. Day	1887	1893	49
G. Forman	1885	1893	49

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In Memoriam.

NAME	JOINED	DIED	AGE
R. Irons	1885	1893	48
I. Rigg	1883	1894	31
H. Waybrant	1888	1894	50
C. C. Tandy	1891	1894	29
R. Mugfer	1872	1894	47
F. H. Old	1888	1895	26
D. Jackson	1885	1895	37
J. Owen	1872	1895	58
J. R. Reid	1882	1895	46
G. W. Cooper	1880	1896	50
J. L. Kemp	1892	1896	26